

The Willow Pattern



A Mandarin had a beautiful daughter, called Koong-Se. She lived in her father's pagoda garden as she was promised to Ta-Jin, a noble warrior. Her only friends were two doves.



The doves were also friendly with Chang, employed as a gardener to the Mandarin. The doves passed messages between Chang and Koong-Se. They fell in love. Chang wrote a poem and sent it to Koong-Se in a shell.



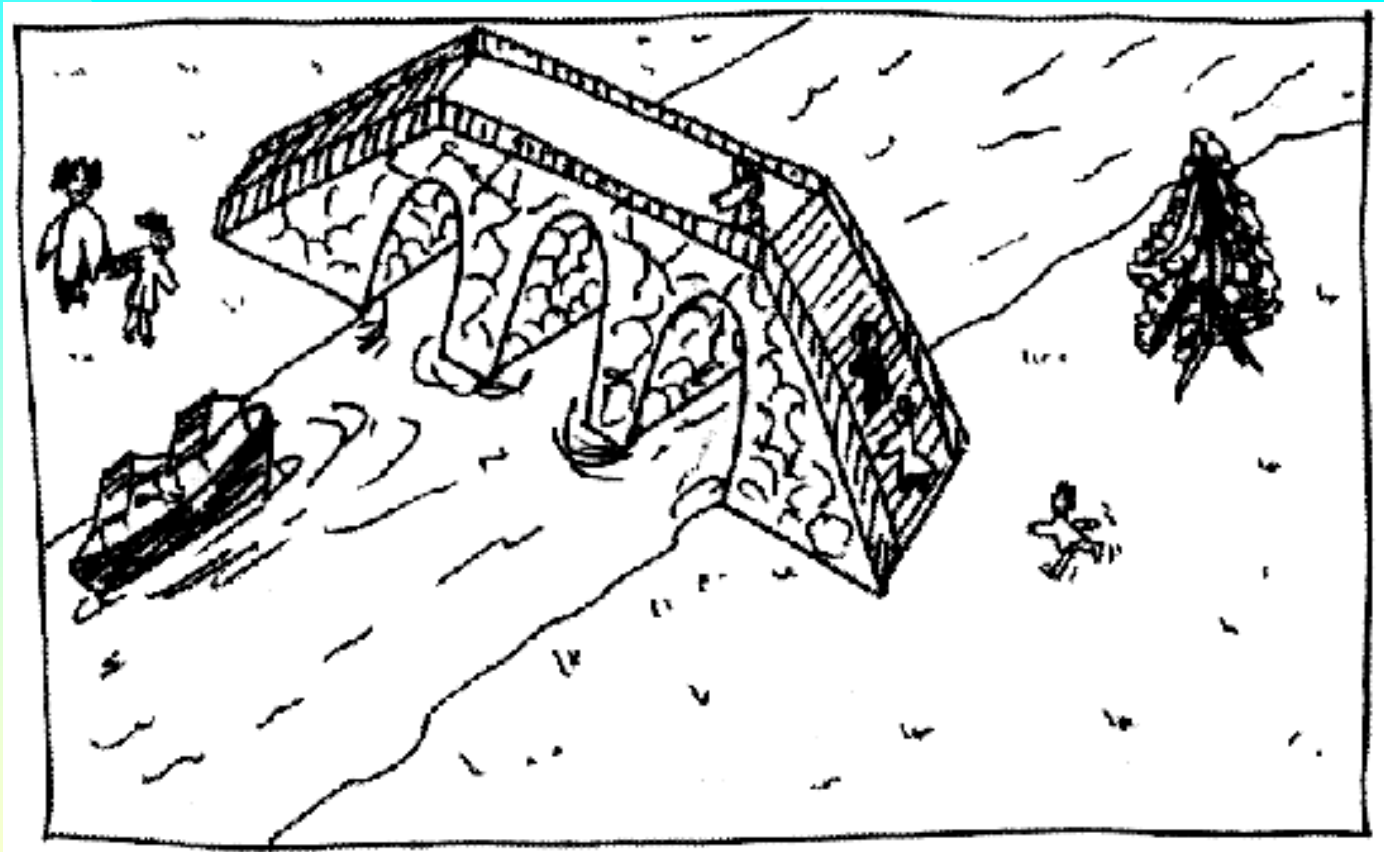
Koong-Se received the love poem. She added sails to the shell and sent it back down the stream. In it, was a letter telling of her marriage.



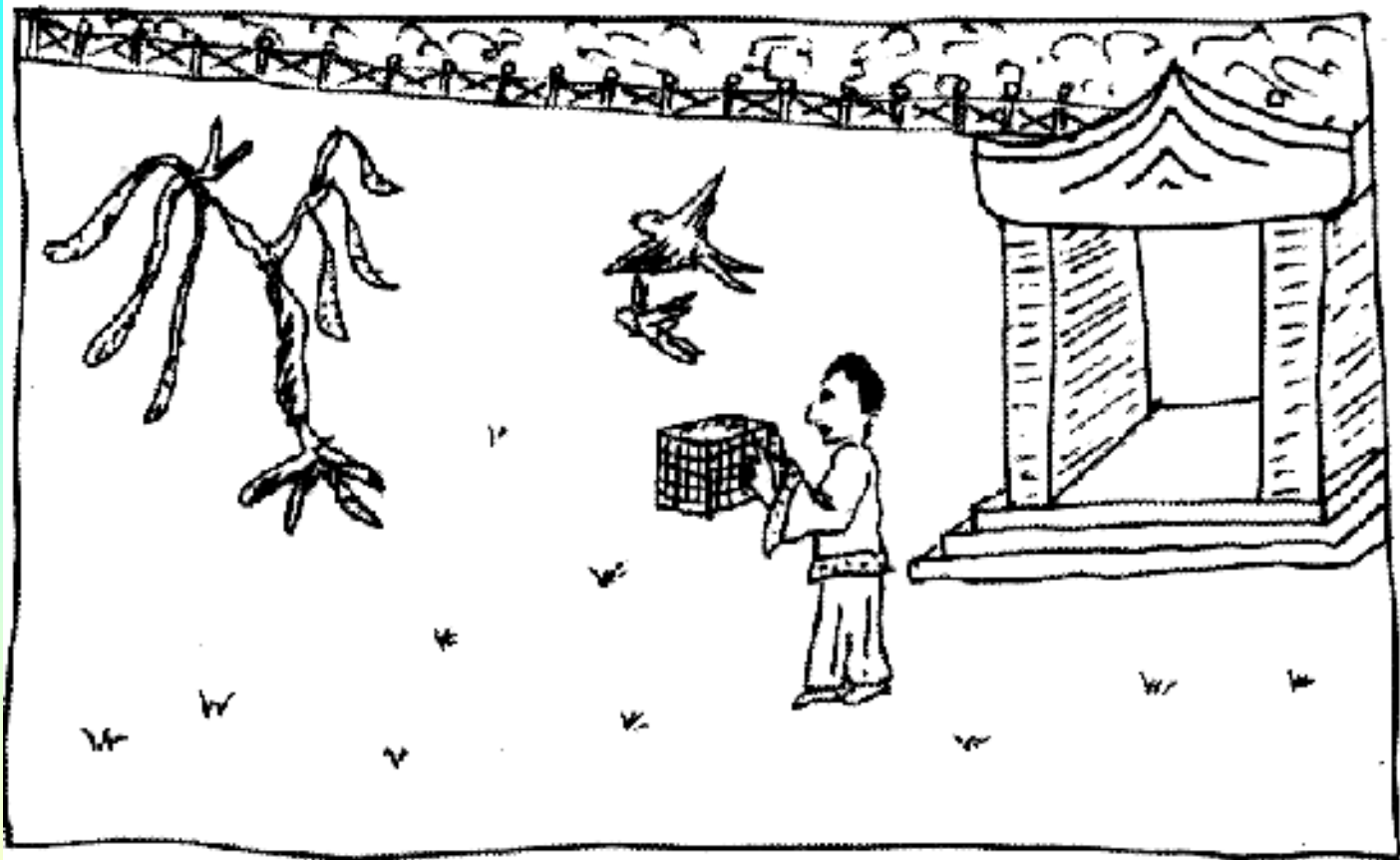
On the wedding night, Koong-Se and Chang met.
They agreed to run away together.



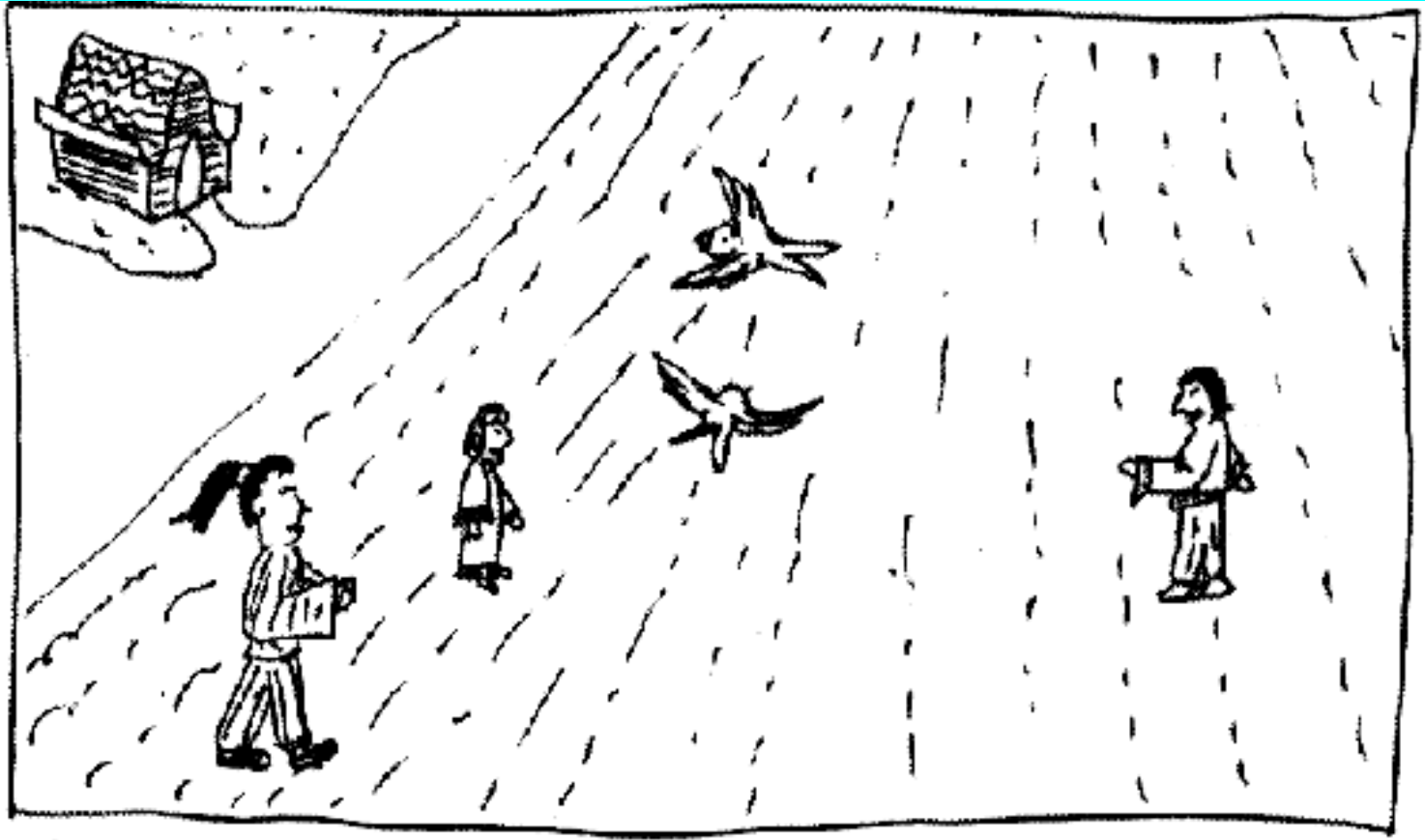
They were seen by the guests and chased. They escaped in a boat and sailed away to a distant island to become farmers.



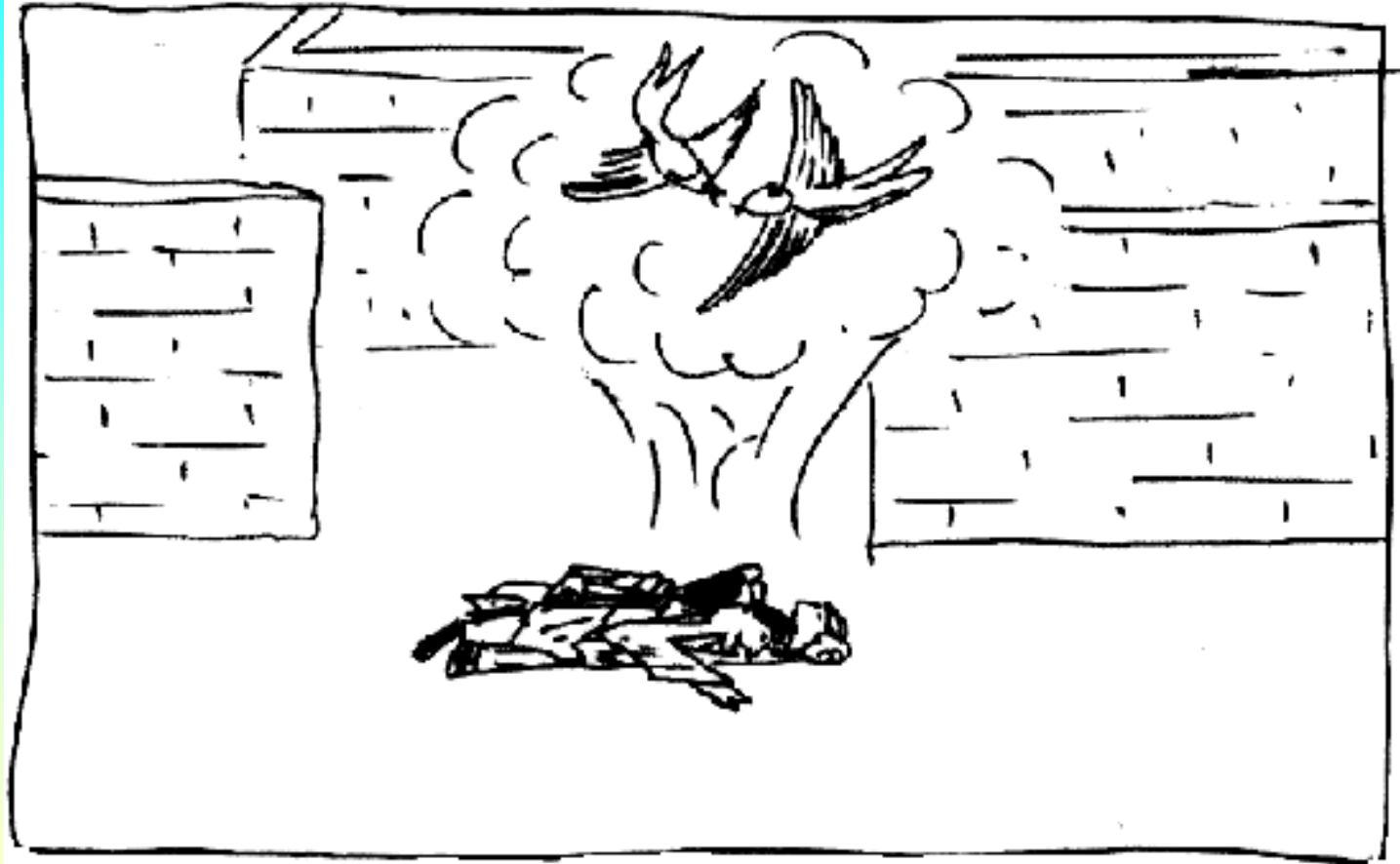
The Mandarin trapped the birds and sent his men to find Koong-Se and Chang. They could not find them so he had an idea; he released the doves.



The birds led the Mandarin to Koong-Se and Chang.
They were captured and thrown into a maze under
the pagoda garden.



They tried to escape but died in each others arms.
The gods were so touched by their love that they transformed them into lovebirds the instant they died.



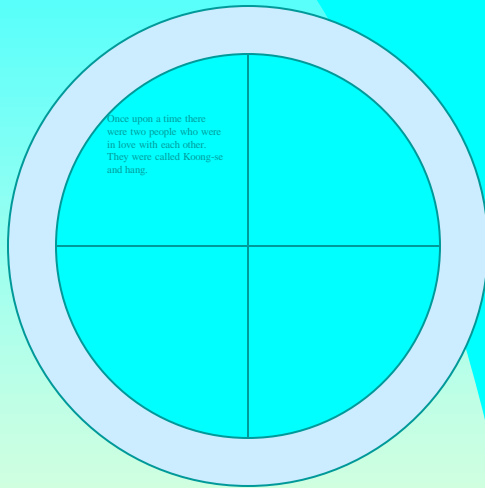


The Chinese Weeping Willow

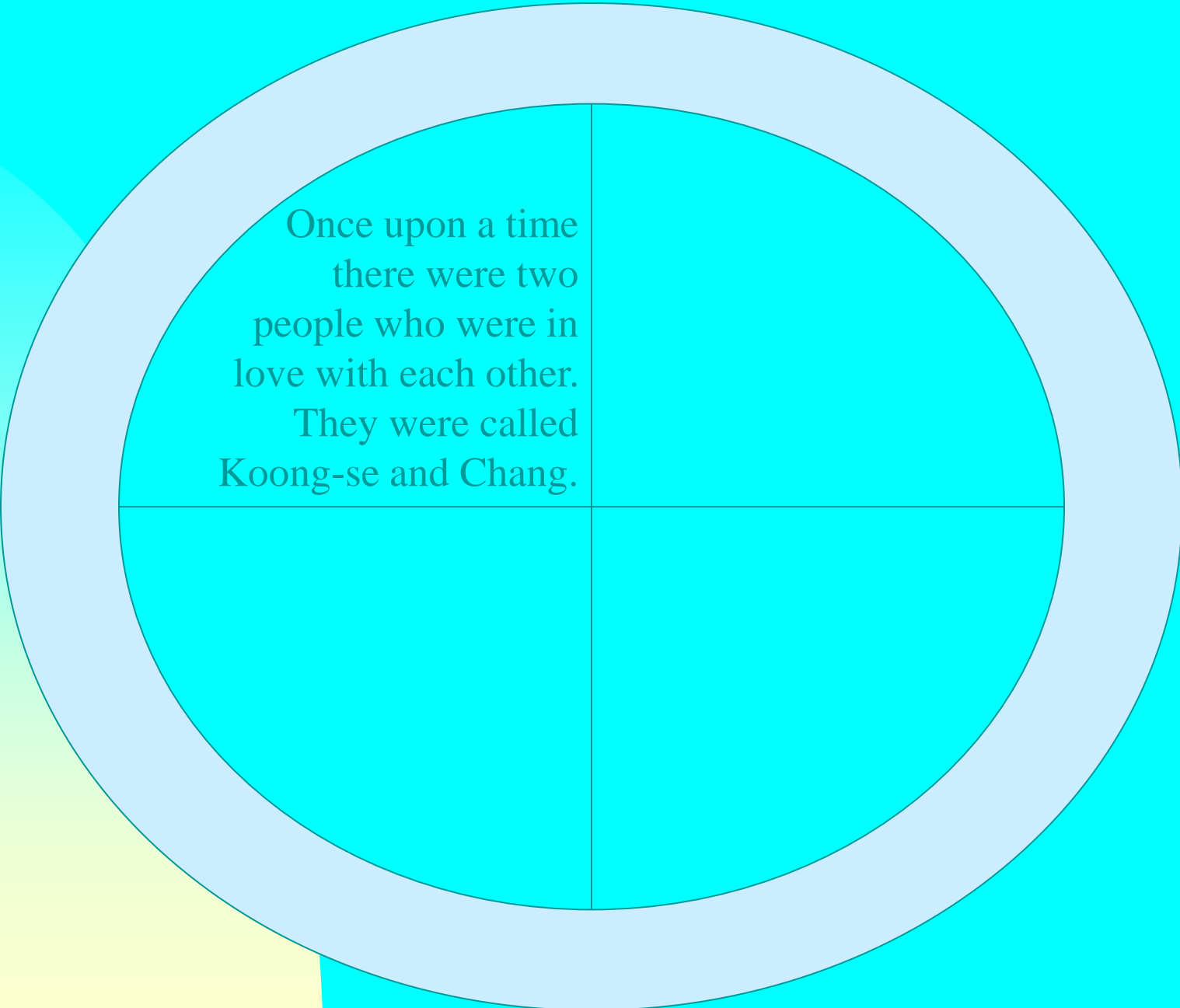
- Look at books which help to identify common trees. Find pictures of the Weeping Willow. Why do you think the tree is so named? Trees are said to be weeping if their branches droop and nearly touch the ground.
- Make a scrap book of trees which you can identify.
- Can you find and draw leaves from the weeping willow? Describe the difference in shape between willow leaves and, for example, those of the horse chestnut. Give clear descriptions of the shape, colour and texture of different leaves.

Willow Pattern Plate

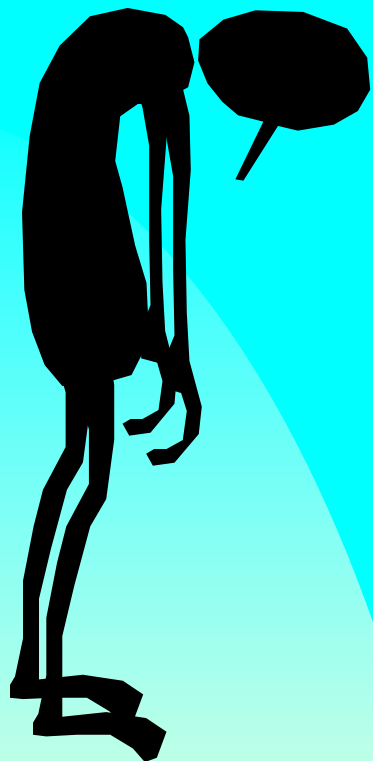
See a template on the next page



- Write a mini-story of Koong-se, Chang and T'so Ling in 100 words. When you are happy with your rough copy divide it into four parts.
- Cut white drawing quality paper or thin card into a circle by drawing around a tea plate. Mark it out into quarters and using blue ink , write your story, one part to each segment, leaving the outer edge free. You will need to turn the paper round as you write the story.
- Use blue water colour to paint around the edge and if there is space, draw the bridge in the middle of the 'story plate.'



Once upon a time
there were two
people who were in
love with each other.
They were called
Koong-se and Chang.



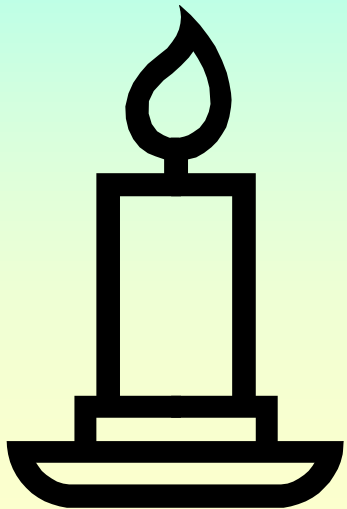
Sad and Lonely

- Koong-se felt so sad and lonely that she began to cry. Quietly think about a time when you may have felt upset.
- Write down a shopping list of feeling words: sad, upset, scared, lonely, frightened, apprehensive. From these build up a word-picture which would let the reader into your life, sharing your thoughts and feelings about your sad time. You don't have to share it if you don't want to but perhaps let a friend or parent or carer have a read.



Secret Pictures

- Use a white wax crayon or a white candle on white paper to draw scenes from “The Willow Pattern Story.” You won’t be able to see what you have draw. Then wash all over the paper with thin blue paint and the wax picture will show up.



Stencilled Chinese Landscape

- Draw and cut out images from “The Willow Pattern Story” on old newspapers or sugar paper. Include the palace, bridge, willow trees, boat, the island, the two birds, etc. Lay these out on drawing paper and spray with blue paint, using a blue colouring spray or one bought from an art shop. When the paint is dry move every cut-out about two cm to the left, then respray, this time using a deeper shade of blue paint. You will have a shadowy picture in a mixture of blues with some pure white shapes beneath.





Display

- Create a blue and white display using willow patterns, blue flowers in a blue vase, blue and white curtains, books, pictures, and so on. Add your own willow pattern plate to the display.

